
PRESS RELEASE

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Mersin International Port (MIP) inaugurates 1 Billion TL Gate Project

MIP's Gate Project to address traffic congestion around the port, has been successfully completed within a remarkable one-year timeframe. This pioneering endeavour not only resolves traffic challenges but also enhances the efficiency of Mersin's port operations by effectively separating port traffic from the city's roadways.

MERSIN, TÜRKİYE — Mersin International Port (MIP) proudly inaugurated the much-anticipated "Gate Project" during a momentous ceremony graced by the esteemed presence of Mersin Governor Ali Hamza Pehlivan, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Vahap Seçer, distinguished members of the city's protocol, and prominent company executives. This project, materialized through an investment of approximately 1 billion TL, marks a significant milestone in the region's transportation infrastructure.

This project will facilitate direct entry and exit for trucks and heavy vehicles to access Mersin Port, which will have a notable impact on city traffic. As a result, urban traffic will be mitigated and the waiting times for trucks at the port during loading and unloading will be substantially reduced.

Addressing the audience at the Gate Project's inauguration, Mersin International Port General Manager, Ajay Kumar Singh, emphasized the project's local significance and its commitment to address the city's challenges: "As a company that knows Mersin closely and is proud to be from Mersin, one of our most important duties is to produce solutions to the problems of our city. Based on this, we launched a very important initiative last year. With the Gate Project, we will solve the problem of freight traffic at the entrance of Mersin and ensure that trucks arriving at the port can enter and exit the port directly without interfering with city traffic. By solving the freight traffic problem at the entrance of Mersin, we aim to increase the trade volume of our city and benefit the development of our region. By solving the freight traffic problem at the entrance of Mersin, we aim to benefit the increase in trade volume of our city and the development of our region. MIP under the Mersin Governorship, Mersin Metropolitan

Municipality, General Directorate of State Railways and Highways of the Republic of Türkiye too the initiative to solve the traffic problem that closely affects the people of Mersin. This is how the Gate Project was initiated, bringing you and us together today. Our main intention in this project was to separate port traffic from city traffic. We promised to regulate the traffic caused by heavy vehicles such as trucks and trailers, especially around the port.”

General Manager Singh provided the following details about the project: "Through our substantial investment of 1 billion TL, vehicles transporting containers and conventional cargo will now have direct access to our port via two entry points connected to the D400 Highway. Additionally, we have introduced a new access route via 132nd Street, featuring three lanes for enhanced convenience. The construction of a railway overpass as part of this project ensures efficient traffic flow by allowing trucks to pass smoothly underneath. We have confidence that this investment will not only improve the well-being of Mersin's inhabitants but also make a substantial contribution to the city's advancement. This project serves as a testament of our unwavering dedication to the citizens of Mersin.”

Dirk Jan Storm, Regional CFO PSA EuroMed added: “The Gate Project unites our business, sustainability and social objectives, making it a remarkable win-win scenario for all stakeholders involved. It seamlessly integrates our commitment towards supporting MIP and the local economy, while also fostering a healthier environment for the people of Mersin.”

Mersin Metropolitan Municipality Mayor Vahap Seçer said the following in his speech at the ceremony: “As Mersin, we live on very ancient lands from Anamur to Tarsus, which is one of the most important reasons why the current center of Mersin has grown, developed and become a great city. Today, MIP, one of the most important ports of Türkiye, and sub-sectors arising from port-based trade, one of the most important reasons why Mersin is a commercial city, caused Mersin's population to increase rapidly, first as a result of internal migration and then as a result of important developments in neighboring geographies in our region. Since the day we began to serve, we have kept our relationships with all of our institutions, including MIP, within the parameters of this agreement, and we will do so going forward. Let it expand as a commercial hub and the Mersin port. We wish Mersin to be a city recognized by the world, not only to Türkiye, but also to the Arabian Peninsula, the Middle East, the Caucasus, to all parts of the world, where exports and trade can be made from here, and especially as an important destination with the opening of the international airport.

"Unfortunately, the increasing vehicle traffic over time has caused Mersin's port-based traffic and as a result, the emergence of such images. With the significant contributions of our esteemed Governor, Mr. Ali Hamza Pehlivan, and our previous Governor, Mr. Ali İhsan Su, with

the significant contributions of the MIP management, with the support and efforts of many institutions such as our Metropolitan Municipality, TCDD and the General Directorate of Highways, and the sub-institutions affiliated with these institutions. The project that we will inaugurate today has been completed.

"I wish good health to our esteemed governors, who have contributed to this project from the beginning to the present, to MIP's board members, to all institution managers and presidents, and above all to MIP's technical staff and to all our laboring brothers and sisters who have worked in these constructions with their physical strength."

Mersin Governor Ali Hamza Pehlivan also said the following in his speech at the ceremony: "Our precious city of Mersin is a city identified with its port, and as the port develops, our Mersin also develops. Mersin Port has now become one of the largest ports in the world, especially with the systematic steps taken in the 50s and 60s. While our port is considered the largest port in terms of container capacity in Türkiye, it is also in the top percent in the world rankings and port density is increasing day by day. Of course, this intensity has positive effects on the economy. However, it also creates new needs for the development of the city's infrastructure. The project that will be implemented today is a project initiated to eliminate the traffic congestion experienced especially at the eastern entrance of our city, which arose from this need. MIP company is implementing this project. However, this is not only a project of the company operating the port, but also of our city and our country. Because the steps we will take here towards capacity increase and effective workplaces will contribute not only to the economy of our province, but also to the economy of our region and our country."

Speaking about the importance of Mersin Port, Governor Pehlivan continued his words as follows "Our port can currently handle 2.6 million TEU. It will rise to 3.6 million TEU when extended. Our Ministry of Transportation is doing surveys for the new cargo port. When considering the aspect of international trade, if we assume that the expansion of the current port does not prevent the construction of a new port—rather, as the pertinent parties and experts in this field assert, this is a port city—then the improvement of commercial ties with all nations and the improvement of functionality in this context will support the other port as well. It is accepted by. When we look at it numerically, if we express the contribution of the port to our city in terms of export and import, our exports, which were around 4.2 billion dollars last year, have increased to 6.2 billion dollars as of last year, and our general trade volume has increased to 35 billion dollars. Of course, the contribution of this port is huge and important here. Last year, our exports throughout the country increased by 13 percent and reached around 254 billion. Therefore, as Türkiye grows, our Mersin grows, and as our Mersin develops and grows in its own field, in its own sectors, this is also reflected in the country's economy."

About Mersin International Port Management Inc.

Mersin International Port Management INC. (MIP), which was established as a partnership between Akfen Holding and PSA International, took over T.C.D.D. Mersin Port Management for a period of 36 years on May 11, 2007. In 2017, Australia's IFM Investors joined Mersin International Port's other shareholding parties. Mersin International Port (MIP) is connected via railways and highways with Türkiye's industrialized cities such as Ankara, Gaziantep, Kayseri, Kahramanmaraş and Konya, and with bordering countries such as Syria, Iraq and CIS countries. It is one of the main container ports in the Mediterranean Region with its transit and hinterland connections with the Middle East and the Black Sea. Based on the total amount of cargo handled annually and the site at its disposal, MIP is Türkiye's largest port.

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